

Safety Bulletin



Safety Bulletin # 15-



AFTENTIONS



Child Passenger Protection Laws - Since 1985, all 50 states and the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Territories have child passenger safety laws in effect, compared with 1979, when only Tennessee had such a law. Seat belt use laws for the general public are in place in 49 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Territories

Lives Lost

•In 1996, 653 children four years of age and younger died as occupants in motor vehicle crashes. Of these deaths, 52 percentages unrestrained.

Injuries Prevented and Lives Saved

- •In 1996, it is estimated that 365 children under age five were saved as a result of child restraint use.
- •In 1996, 100 percent use of child safety seats could have prevented approximately 560 deaths.
- •From 1982 through 1996, 3,299 children, age four and under, were saved as a result of child restraint use.

Child Safety Seat Effectiveness

When used correctly, child safety seats are:

- •71 percent effective in reducing fatalities;
- •67 percent effective in reducing the need for hospitalization
- •50 percent effective in preventing minor injuries.

Correct Use of Child Safety Seats

•To be effective, a child safety seat must be used correctly. Read and follow the instructions that come with the safety seat carefully. Read the vehicle owner's manual for installation instructions. Try the seat in your car to make sure it does not easily move side-to-side or forward and down.

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